



December 23, 2002

John Doe  
Fish the Great Lakes  
5555 N. Smith  
Springfield, IL 62704

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello! As you are aware, recreational, charter, and commercial fishing opportunities comprise an important social and economic component of the Lake Michigan shoreline in Illinois and Indiana. Thus, members of the public often have strong interests in how Great Lakes fisheries are researched and managed by various academic institutions and government agencies. Recognizing these interests, the Illinois Natural History Survey, together with Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, has set out to develop and implement the *Lake Michigan Fisheries Outreach Enhancement Program*. This program will address educational needs and promote communication for the diverse recreational, charter, and commercial interests in Lake Michigan and Chicago urban fisheries.

One goal of the *Lake Michigan Fisheries Outreach Enhancement Program* is to identify and educate the "next generation" of leaders – those who will lead Great Lakes fisheries organizations in the future. Ideally these people will 1) be new leaders to their fisheries-related organizations or will become leaders within the next few years, 2) remain informed of current fisheries issues, 3) seek a better understanding of research and management efforts, and 4) develop effective communication skills to promote positive interaction with Great Lakes fisheries management agencies and institutions. Once future leaders have been identified, each will be asked to participate in the Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute (GLFLI). The concept behind the GLFLI is to provide in-depth training of issues surrounding Great Lakes fisheries research and management; thus, developing the skills that will help future generations provide leadership to the region as well as to their organization. The time commitment for participating individuals may vary from a series of meetings of a few hours duration spread over several weeks to weekend-long intense events. Topics of the GLFLI may include aquatic science,



fisheries habitat, aquatic nuisance species, contaminant issues, fisheries management, etc. The GLFLI will operate on a lake, state, and eventually, a regional level.

Currently, our objective is to identify organizations that have a strong interest in nominating an individual to attend the GLFLI. Please indicate on the enclosed form whether your organization would like to receive further information about this program, and return the form in the provided self-addressed envelope at your earliest convenience. Organizations expressing interest in the GLFLI are encouraged to move forward in identifying an individual member that they believe possesses strong leadership qualities, a desire to learn, an open mind, the ability to work well with others, and the potential to excel at representing the organization's interests now and in the future. Moreover, this individual should be someone that will remain active and involved in your organization as well as in Great Lakes fisheries issues for years to come. Upon returning the form indicating your organization's interest in the GLFLI, you will be sent an application form as well as further instructions regarding any additional requirements for completion of the application process. Please feel free to contact me at the phone number or email listed below if you have any questions regarding the intent of this letter or the GLFLI. I would be happy to answer any questions or perhaps schedule a visit to one of your meetings in order to provide more detailed information regarding the goals of the *Lake Michigan Fisheries Outreach Enhancement Program*.

Sincerely,

Chad R. Dolan  
Fisheries Outreach Specialist  
INHS/IL-IN Sea Grant  
607 East Peabody Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 557-1406  
cdolan@dnrmil.state.il.us